



Planning and Project Implementation Update



April 2010

ABOUT THIS UPDATE

The purpose of the Chippewa Quarterly is to provide a summary of environmental analyses on the Chippewa National Forest. Issued quarterly, this is intended to complement other public involvement efforts initiated by the Forest Supervisor or District Rangers. Legal notices will continue to be published in the following local newspapers: Bemidji's *The Pioneer* for Forest Supervisor decisions; and Blackduck's *American*, *Cass Lake Times*, Deer River's *Western Itasca Review*, and Walker's *The Pilot-Independent* for District Ranger decisions.

Projects are classified into one of three categories:

Environmental Analyses in Progress

This category includes projects in which public input is being or is about to be solicited. It also includes those projects that are currently under study or analysis. Environmental analyses include Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Environmental Assessments (EA), and Categorical Exclusions (CE).

Completed Decision Documents

These projects have culminated in the preparation of completed environmental analyses and decision documents since the last issue. These decision documents include Records of Decision (ROD), Decision Notices (DN), and Decision Memos (DM). Findings of No Significant Impacts will be included in this category, also.

Proposals Cancelled or On Hold

Some projects initiated and published in this Quarterly may be cancelled or deferred for various reasons. These projects may or may not be picked up for completion at a later date.

HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED

Read through the list of proposed projects. If you want to provide site-specific comments on a project, get more information, or be placed on the project mailing list, write or call the contact person listed for that project. It is only through site-specific input that we can be responsive to and incorporate your concerns into project development.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Appeal Period - The 45-day period after publication of a decision in which an appeal can be filed.

Categorical Exclusion (CE) - A category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. Neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required.

Comment Period - The time allowed for interested persons to provide comments to a Responsible Official on a proposed action.

Decision Memo (DM) - A concise written record of the responsible official's decision to implement an action that has been categorically excluded from documentation.

Decision Notice (DN) - A concise written record of the responsible official's decision based on an environmental assessment and a finding of no significant impact.

Environmental Assessment (EA) - A document that presents issues and concerns important to a project, alternate means of accomplishing a project, and environmental effects of each of those alternatives.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - This document is required for proposed actions that may have significant effects on the human environment. The contents are similar to an environmental assessment, and it includes some additional sections.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) - A document prepared by a federal agency presenting the reasons why an action, not otherwise excluded, will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The procedural guide for the decision making process for site-specific projects.

Proposed Action - A proposal made by the Forest Service to authorize, recommend, or implement an action on National Forest System lands to meet a specific purpose and need which is subject to public notice comment provisions.

Scoping - Includes internal and public involvement to determine the range of issues to be addressed. Scoping aids in the development of alternatives for a proposed action.

Significance - As used in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), requires consideration of both context and intensity.

Anticipated "Walk-in" Business

Requests from the public occasionally necessitate analyses be completed with a short turn-around. This may mean that decisions are made without prior announcement in this Update. As these projects come up for consideration however, they will continue to be announced by legal notices in newspapers. Examples of walk-in requests include special use roads and utility rights-of-way. Scoping efforts for these requests will be conducted as applicable.

Forest Policy on Distributing Documents

Draft and Final Environmental Assessments and Decision Notices/FONSI's and Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements and Records of Decision are routinely mailed to individuals who provide comments on a project. We do not routinely distribute biological assessments or biological evaluations with the previously listed documents. If you wish to receive biological evaluations or biological assessments for NEPA projects, please contact the district and/or Supervisor's Office NEPA Coordinators.

Privacy on Comments Received

Comments received in response to solicitation as part of the NEPA process, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on a proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within stated number of days.



Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

04/01/2010 to 06/30/2010

Chippewa National Forest

This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Chippewa National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest)					R9 - Eastern Region
EAB Sanitation CE CE *NEW LISTING*	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 06/2010	Expected:08/2010	09/2010	Gary Swanson 218-335-8652 ghswanson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Quick response and removal of ash trees with emerald ash borer (EAB). Specific to initial EAB detections on the Chippewa National Forest.				
	Location: UNIT - Chippewa National Forest All Units. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Cass, Itasca. No specific location. Determined by detection of EAB on National Forest Lands.				
Non-native Invasive Plants (NNIP) Management Project EA	- Vegetation management (other than forest products)	In Progress: Scoping Start 05/14/2008 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 07/2010	Expected:09/2010	05/2011	Thomas Heutte 907-228-4132 theutte@fs.fed.us
	Description: Use an adaptive management driven multi-agency approach to 1) Prevent the further spread of NNIP 2). Prevent and reduce impacts from existing NNIP infestations in the area. 3). Restore the land's resistance to NNIP				
	Location: UNIT - Chippewa National Forest All Units. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Cass, Itasca. Forest-wide.				
Reservoir Operating Plan Evaluation (ROPE) Study EIS	- Recreation management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management	In Progress: FEIS NOA in Federal Register 10/02/2009	Expected:12/2010	06/2010	Luke Rutten 218-335-8666 lrutten@fs.fed.us
	Description: Operation of Federal dams and coordination with operators of non-Federal dams in the headwaters of the Mississippi River area between Bemidji and St. Paul				
	Location: UNIT - Chippewa National Forest All Units. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Cass, Itasca. Upper Mississippi River between Bemidji and St. Paul.				

Chippewa National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide)

R9 - Eastern Region

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Chippewa National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide)					R9 - Eastern Region
Central Vegetation Management Project EA	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Road management	In Progress: Scoping Start 11/12/2009 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 06/2010	Expected:07/2010	09/2011	Barb Knight 218-246-2362 bknight@fs.fed.us
	Description: Generally, the project area is bounded by the Forest boundary to the east and south and is central to the Deer River District.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District, Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T57 N, R25-27 W; T 58 N, R 25-27 W; T59N R 26-27W; T145N R26 W; T146N R25-26W; T147N R25-26W, T148N R25W. Located in the Center of the Deer River District to the east and south boundary of the Forest.				
Dog sledding CE	- Special use management	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed.us
	Description: Dog Sled rides on the Forest by outfitter guide.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District, Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. Several roads within Deer River and Blackduck districts of the Chippewa NF.				
Moon Resource Management Project EA	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Watershed management - Road management	In Progress: Scoping Start 02/20/2010 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 06/2010	Expected:08/2010	10/2010	Deborah Overton 218-547-1044 doverton@fs.fed.us
	Description: Vegetation management that includes harvest and nonharvest activities: timber sale and related timber stand improvement; managing system roads and other small projects designed to maintain/improve/protect other resources.				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District, Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T143N, R25W to T141N, R25W and T143N, R27W to T141N, R27W. Chippewa National Forest, Walker Ranger District, Cass Cty, MN.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Chippewa National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide)					R9 - Eastern Region
Transmission Project -- 230 - kV from Bemidji to Grand Rapids EIS	- Special use management	In Progress: DEIS NOA in Federal Register 03/05/2010 Est. FEIS NOA in Federal Register 07/2010	Expected:08/2010	10/2010	Catherine Thompson 218-335-8655 cjthompson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Construction of a 230 kV powerline from Deer River to Cass Lake on National Forest Lands.				
	Web Link: http://www.capx2020.com				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District, Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass, Itasca. Right of way 125 feet in width from Deer River to Call Lake on NFS lands. Entire project runs from Bemidji to Grand Rapids.				

Chippewa National Forest Blackduck Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
Compartment 86 Stand 41, 54, 79 Riparian Planting CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 05/2010	Expected:06/2010	06/2010	Jeff Allison 218-835-3115 jmallison@fs.fed.us
	Description: Planting white pine and other species in the riparian zone of a marsh, wetland.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T147N R31W Sections 2 and 3. A marsh, wetland southwest of South Twin Lake.				
Kitchi Resource Management EA	- Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Watershed management - Road management	In Progress: Scoping Start 11/22/2009 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 05/2010	Expected:08/2010	10/2010	Leo Johnson 218-835-3107 ljohnson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Kitchi area timber sale, reforestation, timber stand improvement, roads management, and associated vegetation and recreation projects				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Itasca. LEGAL - T145N R30-31W, T146N R29-31W, T147N R29-31W, and T148N R31W. Between Cass Lake and Lake Winnibigoshish north of the Mississippi River.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Chippewa National Forest Blackduck Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
Paul Bunyan Buried Telephone Lines - Blackduck_2 CE	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 04/20/2008	Expected:08/2010	09/2010	Jeff Allison 218-835-3115 jmallison@fs.fed.us
	Description: Bury existing and new telephone lines - fiber optic, about 42" deep, all in existing road rights-of-way. Total in 5 separate locations of about 2.7 miles on NFS lands. Waiting on heritage resources surveys as of 7/1/2009. It is up to Paul Bunyan.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T146N R30W Sections 4, 6, 7, 16, 21, 22, and 23; T145N R30W Section 18. 5 separate locations on NFS lands near Cass Lake.				
Paul Bunyan Telephone Buried Line Movement - Itasca County CE	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2010	Expected:06/2010	10/2010	Jeff Allison 218-835-3115 jmallison@fs.fed.us
	Description: Relocating buried telephone lines that may have to go outside the existing right-of-way. Includes about 1 1/4 mile of lines in four locations.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T148N R28W Sections 3 and 14 and T149N R26W Sections 11 and 15. Along County Roads 39, 32, and 149.				
Popple River Rock Spawning Reef CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	In Progress: Scoping Start 06/06/2007	Expected:04/2010	02/2011	Jeff Allison 218-835-3115 jmallison@fs.fed.us
	Description: Reef of small rocks in Popple River for walleye spawning.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T149N R27W Section 15. In Popple River near bridge on County Road 126 (FR 3673).				
Rabideau Special Use Permit for CALC CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 05/2010	Expected:06/2010	06/2010	Nancy Salminen 218-835-3116 nsalminen@fs.fed.us
	Description: Permit to authorize more greenhouses, more parking, access off CR 55, and solar electric panel installation near the CCC camp.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T148N R31W Section 13 N1/2NE. West of Rabideau CCC Camp in open field.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Chippewa National Forest	Blackduck Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)			R9 - Eastern Region	
Raven Lake Cooperative Prescribed Burn CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Vegetation management (other than forest products)	Completed	Actual: 03/18/2010	04/2010	Cory Mlodik 218-835-4291 corymlodik@fs.fed.us
	Description: Prescribed burning of a large wetland in cooperation with Minnesota DNR near Raven Lake. A continuation of past burning in this area. About 50 acres are Forest Service.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T146N R29W Sections 10, 11, 14, and 15. Northwest of Lake Winnibigoshish near Raven Lake.				
Scenic Gravel Pit Expansion EA	- Minerals and Geology	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Leo Johnson 218-835-3107 ljohnson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Expand the Scenic Gravel pit downward into the water table to get more gravel. Consider gating the access road.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T148N, R30W, Section 6 and T149N, R30W, Section 31. East of the Scenic Highway 4 miles south of Blackduck.				
Sugarbush Township Leech Lake Road Easements CE	- Special use management	Cancelled	N/A	N/A	Jeff Allison 218-835-3115 jmallison@fs.fed.us
	Description: Grant easements for existing roads to Leech Lake Band that the township recently turned over to them. Waiting for a formal application from LLBO about the roads.				
	Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T147N R31W. Various locations in Sugarbush Township (around Big Lake).				

Chippewa National Forest	Deer River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)			R9 - Eastern Region	
Little Cut Foot Sioux Home Tract Lot#11 CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 03/15/2010	Expected:04/2010	06/2010	Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed.us
	Description: Removal of window/replace with sliding glass door. Remove existing cement step/replace with deck				
	Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - S31 T147N R26W. Lot #11 Little Cut Foot Sioux summer home tract.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Chippewa National Forest Deer River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
Little Cut Foot Sioux Home Tract Lot#13 CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 03/15/2010	Expected:04/2010	06/2010	Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed.us
	Description: 22½x16½ addition, construct full basement under cabin 40½x22½, build 16½x25½ garage				
	Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - S31 T147N R26W. Lot #13 Little Cut Foot Sioux Summer Home tract.				
North Star Summer Home Tract Lot#10 CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 03/15/2010	Expected:04/2010	06/2010	Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed.us
	Description: New pit toilet built on 6½x8½ pad at new location. Existing pit toilet will be removed				
	Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - S32 T59N R26W. Lot #10 North Star Summer Home tract.				
Northeast Impoundment Removal CE	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management - Road management	Completed	Actual: 01/22/2010	06/2010	Eric Raitanen 218-246-3475 ericraitanen@fs.fed.us
	Description: Impoundment control structures on Spur Lake Impoundment and Hanson Impoundment would be removed and replaced with culverts designed for fish passage.				
	Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T149N R 25W S21; T57N R25 W S13. Spur Lake Impoundment and Hanson Lake Impoundment.				
Paul Bunyan Telephone & fiber optic line CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	In Progress: Scoping Start 01/13/2010	Expected:04/2010	05/2010	Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed.us
	Description: Replacement of existing lines with fiber optic.				
	Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. Multiple locations around Deer River Ranger District; within road rights-of-way.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Chippewa National Forest Deer River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
Six Mile Dam CE *NEW LISTING*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2010	Expected:07/2010	09/2010	Eric Raitanen 218-246-3475 ericraitanen@fs.fed.us
	Description: Six mile dam is delapidated and not functioning and is a barrier to fish migration. This poject will replace the dam with a structure that passes fish and has low maintenance.				
	Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - T144N R27W S17. Deer River Range District Cass County, MN.				
Suomi Hills Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Area Trail Project EA	- Recreation management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 04/2010	Expected:08/2010	09/2010	Michael Martin 218-246-3479 mikemartin@fs.fed.us
	Description: Conversion of low standard roads to trails, new trail construction, building trail shelters, installation of gates/berms on system roads/unclassified roads, and parking areas within the Soumi Hills SPNM Area.				
	Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T 58 N, R 26 W. The project area is located west of MN Highway 38; south and east of Itasca County Road 48; and north of the forest boundary. The project is within the designated Soumi Hills SPNM Area as defined by.				

Chippewa National Forest Walker Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)					R9 - Eastern Region
Former Cass Lake Ranger District Office CE	- Facility management	In Progress: Scoping Start 11/24/2004	Expected:06/2010	07/2010	Catherine Thompson 218-335-8655 cjthompson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Sale of old district office				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. Old administrative site in Cass Lake, MN.				
Ojibway Resort CE *NEW LISTING*	- Special use management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 03/2010	Expected:05/2010	05/2010	Steven Frick 218-547-6002 ext 112 scfrick@fs.fed.us
	Description: provide recreational opportunities for the general public on National Forest land				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - Gov't Lot 2, Section 30, Township 145 North, Range 30 West. resort is located on Chippewa National Forest land on the east shore of Pike Bay, Walker Ranger District.				

Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Chippewa National Forest	Walker Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District)				R9 - Eastern Region
Walker Storm Water Pond CE	- Land ownership management	In Progress: Scoping Start 11/24/2004	Expected:06/2010	06/2010	Catherine Thompson 218-335-8655 cjthompson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Surplus Storm water pond that located in Walker, MN				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. Walker, MN; located adjacent to Garden Street and Hwy 371.				
West Branch Site CE	- Facility management	On Hold	N/A	N/A	Catherine Thompson 218-335-8655 cjthompson@fs.fed.us
	Description: Sale of surplus facility.				
	Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. SW 1/4 lying northerly and easterly of the centerline of Township Road 10 as it existed in 1998.				

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